

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Andi R <apruxton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 20, 2021 7:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** AGAINST House Bill 5193 - Establishment of Charter Schools

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Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Room 35  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

03/20/21

ATTN: Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Andrea and I live in Lincoln. I am writing to express my **strong opposition to Representative O'Brien's bill, H-5193**, regarding charter schools.

*My son, Gabe has always been a handful. He is loud, and wiley, and quick witted, and sometimes expresses himself with his hands before thinking. I believe that were he to have gone to the public school in my area that he would have been suspended at least twice before the end of his first term of Kindergarten.*

*The teachers at my son's charter school, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, worked very hard with me to ensure that Gabe understood that consequences were real and the proper way to behave in kindergarten which was a completely new setting for him. Thanks to them, I was able to get my son diagnosed properly with ADHD and put him on an IEP based on some very loose guidelines. Traditional public schools do not have the leeway to treat their students according to their own needs. They have the staff to work with them to get them to where they need to be.*

*Charter schools do not take away from public schools. They offer students a different way to learn. The sending districts are spending the same amount of money for each student regardless of where they go. Instead of thinking of the money as an investment in the school, think of it as an investment in the child - who will grow up to be a tax paying citizen, maybe even in the city that raised them, not the city that schooled them.*

Please oppose House Bill 5193 and let our children pursue the high-quality education they deserve.

Respectfully,  
Andrea Ruxton